

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 660

Introduced by Assembly Member Corbett

February 19, 2003

An act to add Section 49607 to the Education Code, relating to school counseling services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 660, as introduced, Corbett. Master Plan for Pupil Support Services.

Existing law authorizes the governing board of any school district to provide a comprehensive educational counseling program for all pupils enrolled in the schools of the district.

This bill, in addition, would require the State Department of Education to convene a voluntary working group, as prescribed, for the purpose of developing a master plan for pupil support services. The bill would require the department, in consultation with the working group, to perform specified duties, including, among others, developing a 5-year Master Plan for Pupil Support Services, and would require the department to report on that master plan to the Legislature and the Governor by no later than January 1, 2005.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 49607 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:

1 49607. (a) The State Department of Education shall convene
2 a voluntary working to develop a master plan for pupil support
3 services.

4 (b) The members of the working group shall include
5 representatives from each of the following categories:

6 (1) Pupil support services experts, including, but not limited to,
7 school counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, librarians,
8 school social workers, and child welfare and attendance
9 supervisors.

10 (2) Classroom teachers.

11 (3) School administrators.

12 (4) Classified school employees.

13 (5) Parents or guardians.

14 (6) Pupils.

15 (7) School finance experts.

16 (8) Licensed mental health care providers.

17 (9) Pupil financial aid experts.

18 (10) Academic and learning support experts.

19 (11) Representatives from institutions of higher education that
20 offer a credential in pupil personnel services.

21 (c) Members of the working group shall represent the breadth
22 of the categories described in subdivision (b) and shall be
23 culturally, ethnically, and geographically diverse.

24 (d) Members of the working group shall participate without
25 compensation, and shall not receive reimbursement for expenses
26 related to any travel or meetings.

27 (e) The department, with the advice and assistance of the
28 working group, shall perform the following duties:

29 (1) Develop recommendations and findings, using any reports
30 the working group may deem appropriate, including, but not
31 limited to, the study conducted pursuant to Chapter 250 of the
32 Statutes of 2001, and any findings and recommendations relating
33 to counseling and pupil support that are developed as a result of the
34 Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for
35 Education-Kindergarten through University, for the establishment
36 of a five-year master plan for pupil support services.

37 (2) Determine the appropriate pupil-to-school counselor ratios
38 for elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools based on
39 the results of the study conducted pursuant to Chapter 250 of the
40 Statutes of 2001.

(3) Develop a five-year master plan for pupil support services to provide a design for offering incentives to schools to meet the pupil support services ratios determined pursuant to paragraph (2) by 2010. The master plan shall differentiate between elementary school, middle school, and high school pupil support services. The master plan shall include, but not be limited to, recommendations regarding all of the following:

(A) Possible sources of incentives for local educational agencies to meet the ratios for pupil support services, including, but not limited to, an analysis of the following:

(i) Capacity for recruiting and retaining credentialed pupil support personnel to work in the schools.

(ii) Training and professional development issues.

(iii) Recommendations for program standards.

(iv) Methods for assessing program quality and pupil outcomes.

(v) Linkages and collaboration with sources of pupil support outside of the schoolsite.

(B) The design and implementation of effective pupil support services and programs, including, but not limited to, requirements for guidance counselors to advise all pupils and parents or guardians on the importance of higher education, coursework designed to prepare pupils for higher education, and financial aid availability and requirements.

(f) The master plan for pupil support services shall consider and build upon the foundation developed by the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education-Kindergarten through University with a view towards implementing a strategic plan for pupil support services.

(g) The department shall report on the master plan to the Governor and the Legislature by no later than January 1, 2005.

